

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A bar code reader initiated communications method in which a bar code reader having an internally stored user identification, reads a bar code symbol, processes the data from the bar code symbol and the user identification into a message, and automatically transmits the message over a wireless communication link connected to a network according to a predetermined message delivery profile. The message is received at a distribution node on a network, where the symbol data and the user identification information is processed to determine the message destination station, and delivery options, and an alert is transmitted to the destination station over a specified network , such as a radio frequency paging network.